



A FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINE

JUMBO COMICS, No. 104, Oct., 1047. Published monthly by Real Advantures Pub. Ca., Inc., 670 Fifth Avo., New York 19, N. Y. T. T. Scott, Pres.; I. F. Byrne, Mgr. Edillor; Claudo E. Lapham, Edillor; S. M. 19er, Ar Director, Re-enjerd as second-class maller Dec., 19, 1030, at line Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Inc. Yearly subscription in U. S. Si.20; Foreign \$1.60. Stugle copies 10¢ in U. S. For advertising rales; Advertising Director, Fiction House, Inc., 676 Fifth Avonue, Now York 10, N. Y., Printed in U.S. A.



















































THE SCEPTER OF SHAZ

By WANU

IT was in the time of the blood moon of Mora-vassi and the snipping, guardian mongrels of the Princess Tatatopa bayed lugubriously on the altar steps. Ivory-tinted fangs glistened hauntingly in the veiled light of lunar mists. Evil slinked through the house of Shaz. Even the lord master—eternal ruler of the valley of Waton—the mighty Shaz himself gnawed on his zebra bone and sipped his vulture blood with tremulous uneasiness in the tropic night.

Because it was the year of seven sighs! The gods of Mora-vassi would demand the mourning ritual for the lost Cup of Kisses—and the scepter of Shaz would speak!

Shaz shuddered to think of the savage, immutable laws of the ancient lamas who zealously watched over the sacred altar chamber of Mora-vassi. Their dread scripture, unchanging as time, was chiseled with golden awls on the bones of dead men who had dared defy their preachments. In ominous rows the chalky skeletons lined the holy vaults they guarded and bespoke a grim fate to pagan trespassers.

The history of Shaz was a stained path of loathsome cunning. With foul, besmirched strides he had climbed to unchallenged power. And the wretched hag Tatatopa was the tool that placed the shining scepter of twin diamonds—the awesome mace of his kingship—in his greedy fingers. It was the devil tale of a devil bargain.

For once, years before, Shaz was but a cringing lackey in the service of the ancient lamas, fit only to polish the boots of the haughty priests. But if he had no virtue, he had a certain advantage—an advantage the old prophetess Tatatopa had not. Among his servile duties was the task of washing clean the altar steps after each human sacrifice in the inner chambers of the high lamas. A silver key chained about his neck gave him access to the vault through a hidden door. Tatatopa wanted something in that room.

The lowly Shaz alone could procure it for her. And it was in those days that the devil bargain was born.

In her crooked soul Tatatopa the hag, the prophetess, the witch-masked seeress, nursed wierd longings. A vague warmth stirred her shriveled frame. In her cave of mirrors she was everlastingly plagued by the hideous apparition of her ugly, twisted features. And the stricken fragment that was her heart cried for beauty—beauty as an ironic shell to envelope the devious labyrinths of her inner wickedness.

She whispered her plot in the eager ear of Shaz.

"Steal, steal for me the Cup of Kisses, lowly one, and I will make you higher than the highest. The old king will soon die and I, Tatatopa, will place in your arms the holy scepter of Mora-vassi, the rule of all Waton! The word of Tatatopa the Prophetess is the word of wisdom to the ancient lamas and they will crown you by the light of the blood moon!"

And so in the murky minutes after midnight the humble slave Shaz crept to the hidden door, unlatched it with his silver key and slipped quietly into the lama sanctum. There on a totem pedestal shone the magic vessel—the mystic Cup of Kisses! Greedy, power-hungry hands snatched it from its age-old stand and bore it to a waiting Tatatopa.

Whispering the mumbo-jumbo of the lama cult and chanting the esoteric incantations of a sorceress, Tatatopa huddled over the Cup of Kisses in her mirror cave. Slowly she poured the curdled blood of a newborn mandrill in the blessed vial. And then swallowed the fetid fluid in long, burning draughts.

There was a shuddering moment of suspense, a taut instant of unreality, and the foul form of the hag fell into limbo. A staggering vision of unblushing loveliness

caressed the air where once a pock-branded hell-witch had stood. Tatatopa gasped at her own unutterable beauty—a beauty beyond the most bragging superlatives.

And through the realm of Waton, heads bowed before the lovely image of the new princess in their kingdom. But the demon brain of Tatatopa still lurked behind the angel mask. The brain remembered and rewarded Shaz. To the ancient lamas the old hag that was their prophetess had mysteriously vanished into the outer worlds—but not before she had named to them the royal successor to the throne of Waton.

The old king died and Shaz was crowned—crowned with reverent pomp by the temple priests in the season of the blood moon. His hands now held the symbol of untold authority, the ageless gift of the gods, the fearsome scepter of Shaz! Such was the fruit of dark scheming by a worthless slave boy and a wrinkled witch.

Seven years slipped into eternity. Years of might. Shaz it was who ruled men but scorned their hearts, and Tatatopa it was who ruled their hearts but scorned men. But though he was master of all that crept within his destiny, Shaz, through the unfathomable decrees of fate, was slave yet to a strange new element in his life. For the warm breath of love blew against the black soul of Shaz and the all-alluring Princess Tatatopa was the enticing object of his devotion.

Gazing upon her lithe figure as she wandered day by day through the marble halls of the palace, ever followed by her watching mongrels, Shaz was slowly snared in a web of unrelenting passion by her ensorceling charms. It was an ironic turn of the screw that he, the cause of the witch-hag's beauty, should fall captive to it.

Yet his love was a futile fire, unrewarded, unnourished by Tatatopa. His every subtle blandishment was icily discarded by the beautiful princess.

"Ever will you remain a lowly one to me, O Shaz. Rule as you may the domains of Waton, but never will you rule the heart of Tatatopa."

Thus it was for seven years, and now the fire of hate mingled with the flames of love in the turbulent spirit of Shaz. Repulsed, ignored, the fierce ruler lusted for revenge as he had once desired love. The inexorible creed of the high lamas offered an evil solution to his bitter frustration.

It was the inflexible law of the lamasery

that should the holy Cup of Kisses be gone from the inner chamber for seven years, the loss to the gods of Mora-vassi must be atoned for by a human sacrifice in the season of the blood moon. And the seventh year would be declared the year of seven sighs for so each year had the ancient lamas sighed for the return of the sacred cup. Only when human blood had been spilled in penance would the dread scepter of Shaz speak and name the robber of the inner chamber.

In bewilderment the great Shaz gnashed his teeth. Dare he fulfill the brutal law? Tatatopa drank nightly from the mystic Cup of Kisses to ever hold her unearthly beauty. Never would she relinquish the charmed vial. And should he give a human life for the blood sacrifice, the dread scepter would speak—and speak the doom of Shaz, the slave thief of the inner vault!

Yet did the fiend brain of Shaz find an answer and in the dark of the blood moon the bidding of the lama cult was done. New blood wet the altar chamber and a burial crypt deep in the bowels of the temple held a fresh corpse to please the god-will of Mora-vassi. And Shaz smiled as he gazed at the waning blood moon.

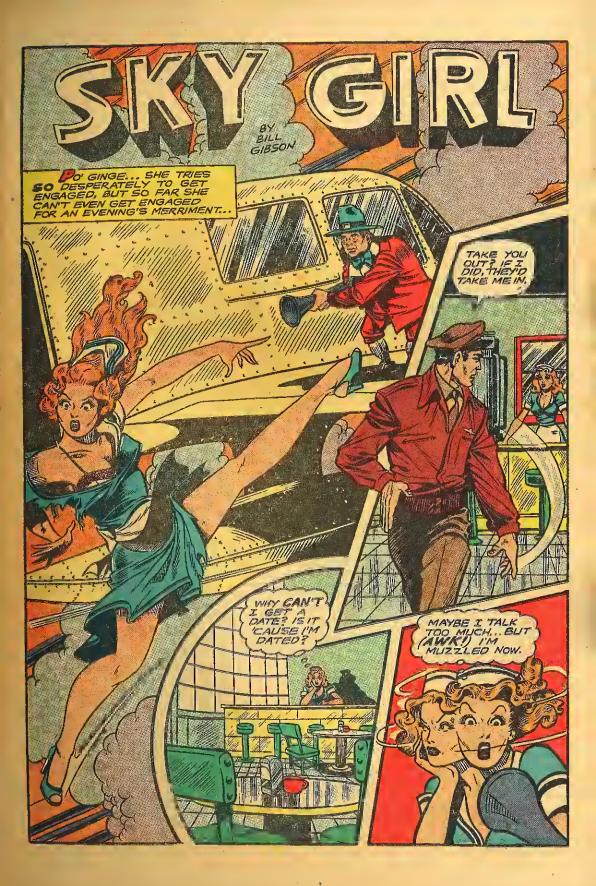
"The sacrifice is made and never—never will the scepter speak! Sacrifice, yes. Sacrifice for the ancient lamas and for the lost love of Shaz!"

For the beautiful Tatatopa lay buried beneath the lama temple! And Shaz the wily, Shaz the clever had buried the awesome scepter with her! No more would Tatatopa taunt him and never would the scepter reveal the desecrater of the miraculous Cup of Kisses. The mace of the twin diamonds was silenced forever.

Shaz grinned in his bedchamber and from the gloom of his room stared out across the plains of Waton, his Waton, his kingdom! But a wierd sound transfixed him. He listened. It was like the sharp hiss of a killer serpent. Slowly he turned his head. There in the dimness rose the shimmering apparition of a coiling cobra. But it was its eyes, its piercing, hypnotizing pin-eyes! They sparkled brightly, with the stark intensity of two brilliant, fire-lit diamonds! As the serpent struck, the tyrant of Waton slumped to a grotesque heap on the floor—his brain seared by one final vision of the haunting beauty of a gloating witch-hag.

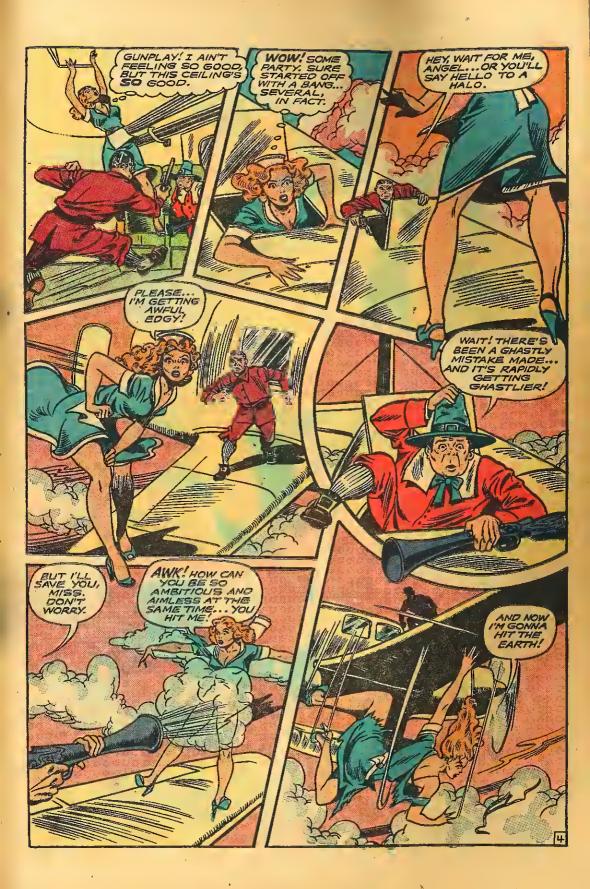
The scepter of Shaz had spoken!

THE END











































Western Star Pictures 54 COWBOYS 300

Size 24X34 inches All in Colors
This Offer Good anytime No C. D. D.

Screen Art Pictures Dept. 7 1633 Milwaukes Ave. Chicago 47, III.





GOSH, MOTHER,
JUST IMAGINE! MY
FIRST IMPORTED
DRESS! AND IT
COST ONLY \$528
ISN'T IT SIMPLY
SUPER...

FIESTA DRESS

 IMPORTED FROM MEXICO: SIZES 4 TO 14!
 CHOICE OF VIVID YELLOW, BLUE OR RED ON WHITE BACKGROUND... A WASHABLE COTTON PRINT!

YOURS FOR 10 DAYS TRIAL INSPECTION AND APPROVAL

Your little miss will don this exclusive fashion, proud as a picador in wearing her "first real imported dress from Mexico"! Fun-loving Mexico is interpreted saucily in this 2-piece charmer! Has adorable flared skirt with three-tiered flounce! And a matching blouse with draw-string neckline and cute printed cap sleeves. Your choice of the gayest colors imaginable: yellow, blue, or red! She'll wear this everywhere, from school to parties! And the nicest thing about it is it's made from dutable cotton that washes easily and beautifully!





SEND NO MONEY! Mail Coupon...

Let your daughter be the first to sport
this exciting new Mexican fashion!
Fill in coupon now, checking size
and color choice. Mail today. On
arrival pay postman C.O.D. charges plus
postage . . . or send \$5.98 with order,
and we pay postage. If after 10 days of comparing
this wonderful buy with any other dress . . , yes,
actually seeing your daughter wear it . . . if you aren't

convinced of this exceptional value, simply return purchase for full refund.

ONE HALF

COUPON

TEE-NEE, Dept. 1512 Grand Rapids 2, Michigan

Please send me your gay 2-piece Fiesla dress, Also miniature sombrero without additional cost. On arrival 1 will pay postman only \$5.98 plus postage. In 10 days, if I'm not delighted, I will return purchase for refund, (Send cash with order, we pay postage.)

CHECK COLOR CHOICE:

CIRCLE SIZE

Red

€ Blue

Yellow

4 4 5 10 10

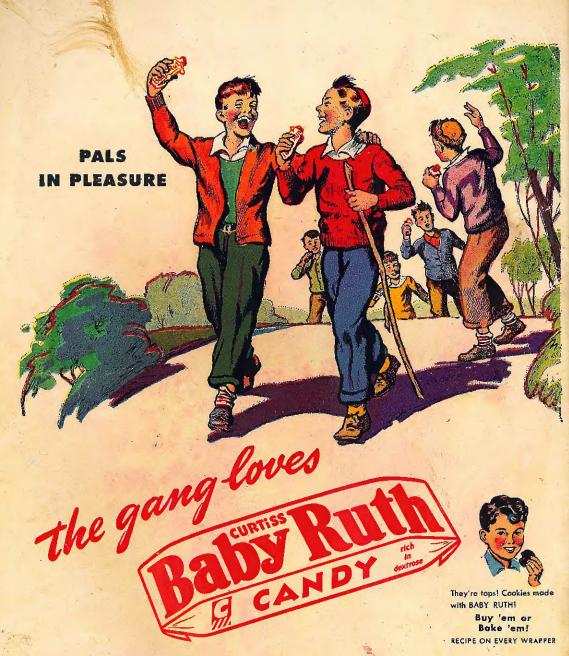
NAME____

ADDRESS_

__ ZONE

STATE





Good Fun: Spirits are high when Baby Ruth jains the crawd!

Deliciaus, chewy candy like Baby Ruth is a swell treat any time, any place!

Good Food: The delectable gaadness of Baby Ruth candy cames fram its pure, whalesame ingredients . . . Baby Ruth is rich in dextrase, the sugar yaur bady uses directly far energy!

CURTISS CANDY CO . Producers of Fine Foods . CHICAGO 13, ILL.